

# New Records of James Chilton, *Mayflower* Passenger from Canterbury and Sandwich, Kent

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In 2022, we set out to see if we could identify the name of *Mayflower* passenger James Chilton's wife. Her name has been frustratingly elusive, despite 19<sup>th</sup>-century claims (probably just confusion) that her name was Susanna.<sup>[1]</sup> William Bradford, in his passenger list of the *Mayflower*, simply records "James Chilton, and his wife," and later notes "James Chilton, and his wife, also dyed in the first infection."<sup>[2]</sup> Her name is not given in any of the baptism records of her ten known children baptized at St. Paul, Canterbury; St. Martin, Canterbury; and St. Peter, Sandwich. No marriage record has been found, despite extensive review of the parish registers of Canterbury and neighboring parishes. Her name has not turned up in any of the manorial or probate records yet examined. Even when she was excommunicated from St. Peter, Sandwich, she was recorded simply as "\_\_\_\_ wife of James Chilton." Apparently, the registrar planned to fill in her name later and never did.

Our research has also—to date—failed to uncover her name, although we will mention a couple hypotheses on her identity in the genealogical summary section. However, in the course of our research efforts, we did turn up a number of new records and details on the Chilton family at Canterbury and Sandwich. Sue Allan recently published a history and biography of the Chiltons in her book, *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim James Chilton of Canterbury*.<sup>[3]</sup> This article will focus on the new records that have been uncovered, bringing them together with the previously published research on the Chilton family undertaken and published over the years by Mrs. Russel Skelton, John G. Hunt, Michael R. Paulick, Jon Wardlaw, Simon Neal, and Caleb Johnson.<sup>[4]</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In 1840, even before the rediscovery of the William Bradford manuscript history *Of Plymouth Plantation*, Nahum Mitchell referred to the couple as "James and Susanna Chilton" (*History of the Early Settlement of Bridgewater, in Plymouth Colony, Massachusetts* [Boston, 1840], 222, 353, 388). Previous publications, going back as far as 1815, incorrectly identified a Susanna Chilton as marrying Robert Latham—but this was actually Susanna the daughter of John and Mary (Chilton) Winslow (*Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 13 [1815]:174). John Hunt, perhaps trying to stay with the Susanna theme, identified Susanna Furner, James Chilton's step-sister, as a possible candidate wife, but the subsequent discovery of Susanna's baptism in 1573 made her too young to have been the mother of the couple's eldest son Joel (*TAG* 38 [1962]:244–245).

<sup>2</sup> William Bradford (edited by Caleb Johnson), *Of Plymouth Plantation* (Vancouver, Wash., 2006), 431, 434.

<sup>3</sup> Sue Allan, *In Search of Mayflower Pilgrim James Chilton of Canterbury* (Boston: American Ancestors, 2024).

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Russell M. Skelton, *Mayflower Quarterly* 43 (1961):5–6; Michael R. Paulick, *Register* 153 (1999):407–412; *New England Ancestors* 8 (2007):39–40; *Mayflower Descendant*, 68 (2020):134–

## Genealogical Summary

1. **RICHARD<sup>B</sup> CHILTON** was born probably at Canterbury, Kent, England, say 1500, and died between 21 September and 30 November 1549 (from the dates of his will). He married **ISABEL** \_\_\_\_\_, who died before Richard wrote his will. Richard's parentage has not been ascertained, but the Chilton family of Canterbury may descend from a family of that name that held Chilton manor, Kent, throughout the 11<sup>th</sup> century. On 15 July 1293, Stephen de Chilton and Roger de Chilton of Canterbury are named in the Calendar of Patent Rolls.<sup>[5]</sup> A Robert Chilton represented Canterbury at the 13<sup>th</sup> Parliament of King Edward III in 1339.<sup>[6]</sup> A Thomas Chilton, pistor, was resident at Burgate ward, Canterbury, in 1414–1415, as was John Chilton, baker, in 1415–1416.<sup>[7]</sup> William Chilton was bailiff of Canterbury in 1426–1427, 1432–1433, and 1437,<sup>[8]</sup> and was involved in several chancery lawsuit around that time.<sup>[9]</sup> About 1493, a John Chilton sued the mayor of Canterbury.<sup>[10]</sup>

Richard Chilton of St. Paul, Canterbury, made out his will on 21 September 1549. He asked to be buried next to the grave and sepulcher of his wife Isabel, at St. Martin, Canterbury. He bequeathed James Pyers six pence and made small bequests to his servants Alyce Hendyman and Clemence Grenlef. He gave everything else to his son Lionel, mentioning no other children. The will was administered on the last day of November 1549.<sup>[11]</sup>

Known child of Richard<sup>B</sup> and Isabel (\_\_\_\_\_) Chilton:

2 i. **LIONEL<sup>A</sup> CHILTON**, b. bef. 1528.

2. **LIONEL<sup>A</sup> CHILTON** (*Richard<sup>B</sup>*), born probably at Canterbury before 1528.<sup>[12]</sup> Lionel is the only child mentioned in his father Richard's will, and he was named the sole executor of his father's estate. Lionel was a churchwarden at St. Paul, Canterbury, for 1578 and 1579.<sup>[13]</sup>

141; John Hunt, *TAG* 38 (1962):244–245; Caleb Johnson, *Mayflower Quarterly* 75 (2009):139–140; 75 (2009):137–138; Jon Wardlow and Simon Neal, *Mayflower Descendant* 62 (2013):69–77.

<sup>5</sup> *Calendar of the Patent Rolls Preserved in the Public Record Office ... AD 1292–1301* (London: 1895), 27.

<sup>6</sup> Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, Vol. 12 (Canterbury: 1800), 48.

<sup>7</sup> James Meadows Cowper, *Intrantes: A List of Persons Admitted to Live and Trade within the City of Canterbury ... 1392 to 1592* (Canterbury: 1904), xxv, xxvi.

<sup>8</sup> Edward Hasted, *The History of the Antient and Metropolitan City of Canterbury, Civil and Ecclesiastical*, Vol. 2 (Canterbury, 1801), 604.

<sup>9</sup> The National Archive (UK) [TNA] C 1/7/252, *Sheldewych vs. Tropham*; C 1/69/310, *Halle vs. Chilton*.

<sup>10</sup> TNA C 1/193/20, *Chilton vs. Mayor of Canterbury*.

<sup>11</sup> Kent Archives, PRC/17/26/285a. See also Mrs. Russell Mack Skelton, "Copies of Wills of the Chilton Family," *Mayflower Quarterly*, 27(1961):5.

<sup>12</sup> He was of legal age in 1549, when he was named sole executor in his father Richard's will.

<sup>13</sup> Joseph Meadows Cowper, ed., *The Register Book of Christenings Marriages[sic] and Burialls in the Parishes of St. Paule Without the Walles of the Citie of Canterburie 1562–1800* (Canterbury: Cross & Jackman, 1893) [hereafter Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*], iii.

Lionel Chilton married first **EDITH** \_\_\_\_\_, say 1550. Her parentage has not yet been ascertained. She was buried at St. Paul, Canterbury, on 25 November 1579.<sup>[14]</sup>

Lionel married second, about 1580, **ISABEL (WILSON) FURNER**, widow of Francis Furner, and daughter of \_\_\_\_\_ and Margaret (Wilde) Wilson. Isabel was born say 1535 and is mentioned in her uncle John Wilde's will dated 14 October 1554.<sup>[15]</sup> Following John Wilde's death, his widow Eleanor remarried to Gilbert Hyde, and Isabel likely continued living in their household to adulthood.

Isabel, wife of Francis Furner, is mentioned in two Chancery lawsuits involving property at Ickham, Kent, that she was bequeathed by her uncle John Wilde.<sup>[16]</sup> Her marriage to Francis Furner likely occurred about 1560, and they had seven children: Robert, Elizabeth, Mildred, Gilbert, Susan<sup>[17]</sup> (baptized 5 November 1573), Thomas (baptized 3 April 1576), and Annis (baptized 2 July 1578, buried 24 January 1579/80). Francis Furner was buried at St. Paul, Canterbury, on 29 July 1579.<sup>[18]</sup> Francis Furner had made out his will two days earlier, on 27 July 1579, naming his wife Isabel and their seven children, as well as his brother Edward Furner.<sup>[19]</sup>

Following the death of her husband Lionel Chilton, Isabel married a third time, to Nicholas Graunt, on 18 January 1584/5, at St. Paul, Canterbury.<sup>[20]</sup> She is mentioned in Nicholas Graunt's will of 30 July 1597, made out at St. Peter's, Sandwich.<sup>[21]</sup> Isabel (Wilson) (Furner) (Chilton) Graunt was buried in 1606/7, at St. Peter's, Sandwich, Kent.<sup>[22]</sup> Her estate inventory is dated 4 January 1606/7, and the administration was handled by her son Robert Furner, along with James Chilton, tailor of Sandwich, and John Watson, glover of Sandwich.<sup>[23]</sup> It appears her sons Robert Furner, chandler, and Gilbert Furner, sailor, were

<sup>14</sup> Jon Wardlow, "The Likely Given Name of James Chilton's Mother" *Mayflower Descendant* 62 (2013):69–71. Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 204.

<sup>15</sup> Kent Archives, will of John Wilde (1554), PRC/32/26/95. Wilde's household at the time he made his will consisted of Eleanor his wife, and two underage children Katherine and Thomas, along with his niece Isabel Wilson, the daughter of his sister Margaret. John Wilde was a Protestant and served as an auditor for the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury Cathedral (Canterbury Cathedral Archives, DCc/MA/17 and DCc/RE/15). A love song in his hand, c1545–1546, is found at DCc/ChAnt/Z/207.

<sup>16</sup> TNA, Chancery Proceedings, Furner vs. Trawnsham, C3/65/98; and Furner vs. Thomas Stansham and Henry Fynche, C4/164/62.

<sup>17</sup> As noted above, John Hunt's speculation that James Chilton may have been married to his step-sister Susan[na] Furner was disproven by the subsequent analysis of the baptism dates, making Susan Furner (bp. 1573) too young to be the mother of Joel Chilton (bp. 1584) (Michael R. Paulick, "The Mayflower Chiltons in Canterbury, 1556–1600" *New England Ancestors* 8 [2007]:39–40, and "James Chilton, a Mayflower Pilgrim in Canterbury, 1582–1584" *Mayflower Descendant* 68 [2020]:134–141).

<sup>18</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 204.

<sup>19</sup> Kent Archives, Probate Records, PRC/17/43/227b, PRC/16/72 F/5.

<sup>20</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 134.

<sup>21</sup> Will of Nicholas Graunt (1597), Kent Archives, PRC/17/51/147.

<sup>22</sup> Registers of St. Peter's, Sandwich, Kent, 1538–1848 (FSL 1850186 items 2ff). The parish register is damaged, making the day and month unclear.

<sup>23</sup> Kent Archives, Probate Records, administration of Isabel Graunt alias Furner (1606), PRC/10/31/163.

accused of stealing a black horse at Ash, Kent, belonging to Henry Burowes, on 28 September 1601.<sup>[24]</sup>

About 1553, Lionel Chilton purchased two loads of “assheler cayn<sup>[25]</sup> stone” from St. Augustine’s Abbey at Canterbury for four shillings per load.<sup>[26]</sup> Later that year he was paid eight pence for “mending of ye harthe of ye chymney in ye porters lodge.”<sup>[27]</sup>

In the 1572 will of John Freeman of Chartham, Kent, John bequeathed two properties of five and three acres to his wife Agnes, the tenant of which is recorded as Lionel Chilton, “bricklayer dwelling in Longe Porte.”<sup>[28]</sup> Longport was the street just outside the walls of the city of Canterbury that passed from St. Paul’s to St. Martin’s churches, and was just south of St. Augustine’s Abbey. We suspect, based on property descriptions, that the Chiltons were likely living on the property known as “The Barton,”<sup>[29]</sup> as it is seemingly the only property in the area that has sufficient space for the outbuildings listed, as well as enough space to grow and store the grains listed in Lionel Chilton’s estate inventory.<sup>[30]</sup> Now the site of the Barton Grammar School, it sits on Longport Street, across from St. Augustine Abbey and kitty-corner to St. Martin’s (though still within the boundaries of the parish of St. Paul.) The property and its buildings are visible on the Canterbury inset of John Speed’s map of Kent, first published in 1611.

Lionel Chilton made out his will on 7 September 1582.<sup>[31]</sup> In it he indicates he was of the parish of St. Paul, Canterbury, and calls himself a yeoman. He asks to be “decently buryed in the churche of St Paule aforesaid, as nighe the buryall of my late wyffe as convenyently may be.” He mentions his servants Pascall Barryngton and William Watson; son-in-law Stephen Morris who was married to his daughter Alice; daughters Anne and Margaret; sons John and James; granddaughter Edith Morris; and wife Isabel. He mentions he stands bond to Gilbert Hyde and Thomas Wilde. He mentions mistress Barham of Barham, and two of his step-children, Thomas and Susanna Furner. Lionel was buried 25 January 1582/3 at St. Paul, Canterbury.<sup>[32]</sup> His estate inventory is dated 29 January 1582/3, and was valued at just over £292.<sup>[33]</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Kent Archives, Sandwich Quarter Sessions, QM/SI/1605/4/6.

<sup>25</sup> Stone that came from Caen, France, which was the predominant stone used to construct St. Augustine Abbey in Canterbury.

<sup>26</sup> D. Sherlock, “The Account of George Nycholl for St. Augustine’s, 1552–1553” *Archaeologia Cantiana* 99 (1983):25–46 [hereafter Sherlock, *Account of George Nycholl*], at 35.

<sup>27</sup> Sherlock, *Account of George Nycholl*, 43. A watercolor painting that includes the “ramshackle” porter’s lodge at St. Augustine Abbey was made in 1757, and can be seen in Matthew Hargraves, *Great British Watercolors: From the Paul Mellon Collection at the Yale Center for British Art* (Yale, 2007), 39.

<sup>28</sup> Will of John Freeman (1575), Kent Archives, PRC/17/41/372.

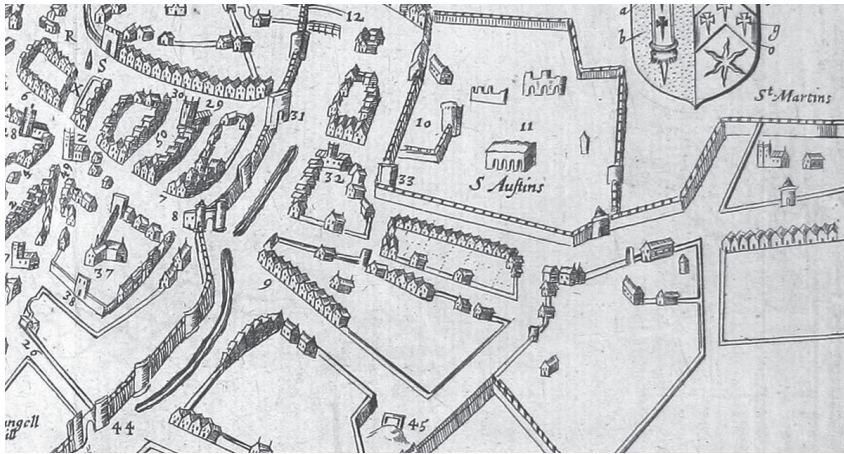
<sup>29</sup> For archaeological work performed at The Barton, see Richard Helme and Sheila Sweetinburgh, “The Home Farm of St. Augustine’s Abbey, Canterbury, Before and After The Dissolution” *Archaeologia Cantiana* 138 (2017):65–88.

<sup>30</sup> A colorful and detailed 16<sup>th</sup> century drawing and map that partially includes The Barton is found on the “Deer Park” map at the Canterbury Cathedral Archives.

<sup>31</sup> The will of Lionel Chilton was fully transcribed by Simon Neal in *Mayflower Descendant*, 62 (2013):53–58.

<sup>32</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 205.

<sup>33</sup> Kent Archives, Inventory of Lionel Chilton, 1582/3, PRC/10/10/366.



Section of John Speed's 1611 map of Canterbury, an inset on the larger map of Kent. The street running in front of "S. Austins" [St. Augustine's] is Longport. The church labeled "32" is St. Paul, where James Chilton baptized most of his children. The church of St. Martin's is located on the upper-right, where the Chilton family attended for a few years in the early 1590s. The only property along Longport matching the description in John Freeman's will, the lawsuit of 1584, and Lionel Chilton's will, is the sparsely-housed block that appears to have a barn, malthouse, and a couple houses set back on a short lane. This property is known as "The Barton" on later maps.

Children of Lionel<sup>A</sup> and Edith (\_\_\_\_\_) Chilton, all presumably at Canterbury:

- i. JOHN CHILTON, b. say 1553. His occupation was given as bricklayer in 1584 in a legal dispute with brother James Chilton.<sup>[34]</sup> He m. (1) at Patricbourne, Kent 10 July 1580 DOROTHY LONDON,<sup>[35]</sup> daughter of Peter London of Bekesbourne.<sup>[36]</sup> Dorothy (London) Chilton was bur. at St. Paul, Canterbury 26 May 1593.<sup>[37]</sup> They had five children: *Lionel* (d. young), *Richard*, *Cicely*, *John*, and *Margaret*.<sup>[38]</sup> John Chilton m. (2) at St. George the Martyr, Canterbury 10 Oct. 1597 ANN CARLILE.<sup>[39]</sup> They had one daughter, *Ann*, bp. at St. Paul 23 Sept. 1599.<sup>[40]</sup> Ann (Carlile) Chilton was bur. there on 19 Oct. 1601.<sup>[41]</sup> John Chilton m. (3) at St. Paul 29 June 1602 ELIZABETH BARNSELY.<sup>[42]</sup> Elizabeth (Barnsley) Chilton was probably the Elizabeth Chilton, wife of John, who was bur. at St. Mary Northgate, Canterbury, on 6 July 1616; a John Chilton was bur. there 14 May

<sup>34</sup> Kent Archives, The Neame Collection of Deeds, U214/T438 (1584).

<sup>35</sup> *Kent Marriages and Banns*, FindMyPast.co.uk.

<sup>36</sup> Inventory of Peter London (1575), Kent Archives, PRC/10/8/193. Will of Alice London 1578 (Dorothy's stepmother), Kent Archives PRC/17/34/164.

<sup>37</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 207.

<sup>38</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 4–6, 205.

<sup>39</sup> Joseph Meadows Cowper, ed., *The Register Booke of the Parish of St. George the Martyr Within the Citie of Canterburie ... 1538–1800* (Canterbury: Cross & Jackman, 1891), 105.

<sup>40</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 8.

<sup>41</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 210.

<sup>42</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 138.



1627.<sup>[43]</sup> John was a churchwarden at St. Paul, Canterbury, from 1585 to 1588, and from 1593 to 1597.<sup>[44]</sup>

- 3 ii. JAMES<sup>1</sup> CHILTON, b. abt. 1556.
- iii. ALICE CHILTON, b. say 1558, bur. at St. Paul, Canterbury 13 Dec. 1610;<sup>[45]</sup> m. there 21 June 1579 STEPHEN MORRIS.<sup>[46]</sup> He was bur. there 13 July 1621.<sup>[47]</sup> Stephen and Alice (Chilton) Morris had ten children bp. and/or bur. at St. Paul:<sup>[48]</sup> *Joane* (bp. 5 Feb. 1579/80, bur. 4 March 1579/80), *Edith* (bp. 16 April 1581), *Stephen* (bp. 26 Dec. 1583), *John* (bp. 1 May 1586, bur. 18 June 1586), *Jane* (bp. 18 June 1587), *Dorothy* (bp. 24 July 1592), *Thomas* (bp. 11 Jan. 1595/6), *Elizabeth* (bp. 28 March 1599, bur. 5 April 1599), *Leonard* (bp. 27 April 1601), and *Sibbell* (bp. 13 Feb. 1602/3).
- iv. ANN CHILTON, bp. at St. Paul, Canterbury 8 Aug. 1566;<sup>[49]</sup> m. there 12 July 1584 RICHARD MILLER.<sup>[50]</sup> This couple appears to have left the parish and has not been traced further.
- v. MARGARET CHILTON, bp. at St. Paul, Canterbury 26 Sept. 1569.<sup>[51]</sup> No further record has been found.

3. JAMES<sup>1</sup> CHILTON (*Lionel*<sup>A</sup>, *Richard*<sup>B</sup>) was born probably at Canterbury<sup>[52]</sup> about 1556.<sup>[53]</sup> James' father, Lionel Chilton, yeoman, of St. Paul, Canterbury, made out his will on 7 September 1582; in that will, Lionel mentioned his youngest son James, who was bequeathed a tenement called Wool Sack ("Wull sack"), in the parish of St. Paul, neighboring the tenement upon which Lionel himself lived. James Chilton was also bequeathed a tenement called the Swan, purchased of Mr. Stoughton, also in the parish of St. Paul.

On 2 December 1583, James Chilton paid 40 shillings to warden Foulter Coulbron to purchase his freedom in the Company of Woolen Drapers and Tailors of Canterbury.<sup>[54]</sup> The following month, on 7 January 1583/4, he "was admitted and sworn to the liberties of this city for he paid nothing for that Mr. Nutt, mayor, did give him his freedom to which the court...did agree and consent."<sup>[55]</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Archdeacon's Transcripts for St. Mary Northgate, Canterbury, (FSL DGS 7566182, images 927 and 938).

<sup>44</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, iii.

<sup>45</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 212.

<sup>46</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 133.

<sup>47</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 215.

<sup>48</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 4–8, 204, 206–207, 209.

<sup>49</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 1.

<sup>50</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 134.

<sup>51</sup> Cowper, *Register Book of St. Paul, Canterbury*, 2.

<sup>52</sup> John Wardlow, "The Likely Given Name of James Chilton's Mother" *Mayflower Descendant* 62 (2013):69–71; John Wardlow and Simon Neal, "Lyonel Chilton's Will" *Mayflower Descendant* 62 (2013):72–77.

<sup>53</sup> James Chilton gave his age as about 63, in a Leiden deposition dated 30 April 1619 (Notarial deeds of Adriaen Claesz Paedts, Leiden, 1618–1619; FSL DGS 5517895, image 136).

<sup>54</sup> Canterbury Cathedral Archives, "Account of Foulter Coulbron, Warden of Drapers and Tailors," U12/A1.

<sup>55</sup> Canterbury Cathedral Archives, "Account Books of the City Chamberlain of Canterbury," F/A/18, folio 242. The mayors of Canterbury, as part of their official duties, were allowed to gift one person their freedom in the company.

On 2 October 1584, John Chilton, bricklayer of St. Paul, and brother James Chilton, tailor of St. Paul, had a legal dispute over a runoff water sink that was shared between their two properties, and over the building of a partition to divide the stable and malt house. The dispute was arbitrated by Joel Stoughton, Richard Swart, Nicholas Quylter, and George Chapman. The arbitrators ruled that James Chilton needed to “fynde all mann[er] of stuff for the makynge up and fynysshynge of a synck in his ground where the same is now digged,” and that John was to “do or cause to be don all the worckmanshippe there unto belonginge wch said synck we do apoynt to be don and fynysshed on thysseyde and before the day of the feaste of All sayntes next comynge.”<sup>[56]</sup>

Two days later, on 4 October 1584, before mayor Ralph Bawden, James acted as one of two bondsman for Alexander Stonnard, who was ordered to keep the peace with Paul Ireland.<sup>[57]</sup>

James' first three children, Joel, Isabel, and Jane, were baptized at St. Paul between 1584 and 1589, suggesting he was likely married about 1582 or 1583, corresponding to the same time he was acquiring his freemanships. No marriage record has been found despite searches throughout Canterbury and numerous neighboring parishes; and as mentioned earlier, the name of James Chilton's wife seems to have escaped all record and remains undiscovered.

Regarding the possible identity of James Chilton's wife, we do note two important clues. Because the eldest son carried the distinctive name Joel, there might be a family connection to the Stoughton family of St. Paul, Canterbury, who were also utilizing that name. The Stoughtons did have known interactions with the Chiltons (such as selling the property called the Swan to the Chiltons, acting as arbitrator in the dispute over the water sink, and marrying into the Wilde and Hyde families). They also had known Puritan leanings (these are the progenitors to the Stoughtons that later came to New England in the Great Migration). This family connection, however, could also be via James Chilton's mother Edith, whose parentage has also not been determined.

Alternatively, John Hunt's original hypothesis that James Chilton may have married the daughter of his step-mother Isabel (Wilson) Furner, may be worth reevaluation. Although Isabel's daughter Susan Furner has been disproven due to her being too young, Susan did have an older sister Mildred Furner, who has not been otherwise genealogically placed. At this period in time, when two widowed people with grown children married, it was not uncommon to cement their union by the son of one partner becoming married to the daughter of the other. Neither would it have been unusual for the bride's family to draw up a sort of prenuptial agreement by way of a binding indenture making provision for her, and her property, in the event of her new husband's death. There is evidence in the will of Lionel Chilton that such an indenture existed: “as I stand bound to Mr Gilbert Hyde and Mr Thomas Wilde to Leave unto her and her children, as ye Indenture thereof made bearing date of the twentieth day of September, In the xxijth year of the reign of Our Sovereign Lady the Queen's Magesty [1580]...”

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<sup>56</sup> Kent Archives, “The Neame Collection of Deeds,” U214/T438 (1584).

<sup>57</sup> Canterbury Cathedral Archives, “Canterbury Court of Quarter Sessions,” CC/J/Q/382/iv.

In his will, Lionel Chilton gives James Chilton a property called the Wool Sack, “in the parish of St Paul aforesaid, and next adjoining to the tenement wherein I now dwell, with all the ground and outhouses there unto belonging with the appurtenances, to be had and holden to him and to his heirs and assigns forever, upon condition that he the said James his heirs and assigns, do suffer the said Isbell, my wife, to dwell in the same tenement called the Wool Sack for the term of her life, or to receive forty shillings a year for the term of her life out of the same tenement, according to the tenor of the Indenture above specified made between the said Mr Hyde and Mr Wilde on the one part, and me the said Lionel Chilton, on the other part...” Placing responsibility on the second-eldest son to house a step-mother (who didn’t even become his step-mother until he was 23 years old) is rather unusual, unless that step-mother also happened to be his mother-in-law. It would also explain why James’ eldest daughter was named Isabel (one would not typically name an eldest daughter after such a recent step-mother). This would also explain why James Chilton later participated, in tandem with step-brother Robert Furner, in Isabel’s estate administration at Sandwich, Kent, following her intestate death.

Over the course of the next fifteen years, James Chilton made numerous appearances in the Court of Common Pleas, both as plaintiff and defendant. The details of the cases are not recorded, but all involve simple trespasses and debts, and presumably are lawsuits stemming from his trade. He sued Richard Pettite, gentleman (1585), John Quilter (1586), Randolph Tatboll (1586), Henry Tunstall (1600), and Thomas Cryspe (1600); and was sued himself by John Quylter (1585), Thomas Featherstone (1600), and Mark Berry (1600).<sup>[58]</sup>

On Easter week, 1586, a group of St. Paul parishioners met in church after evening prayer to hold a required meeting for the appointment of a surveyor of highways. During that meeting, a man named Launcelot Hills “with intent to make strife...began to find fault with a gutter” that belonged to Thomas Limyter, an alderman of the City of Canterbury, who was also present at the meeting. He “used many brawling and angry words...to the great disturbance of the whole company.” William Wallsall, clerk and vicar of St. Paul, “hearde them together chydyng and usyng very whott and angrye wordes and speeches and that very lowde and so lowde and vehement as was not meete for that place [the chancel of the church].” Amongst those present during the overheated discussion were John Chilton, James Chilton, and Stephen Morris. The vicar reported “further that the said James Chylton did lykewyse at the same tyme did use very whott angry lowde and unsemely wordes neyther fytt for that place nor to be used to an Alderman.” The vicar “went to them and admonished and told them that the same was no place to brawl nor chyde.” Another man there present, John Symon, recalled in his Archdeaconry court deposition on the matter, that “James Chilton semed to rep[rim]and the said Lymytory for the said gutter in that he maintayned and allowed those woordes so by the said Hilles spoken and gave some highe woordes there but w<sup>th</sup> more reverence then the said Hilles but yet after an angry manner as the said Hilles

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<sup>58</sup> Canterbury Cathedral Archives, “Court of Common Pleas,” J/B/385-399 *passim*, including 385/iv fol. 4; 394/i; 385/v, fol. 1v, 18v; 399/i fol. 9v, 17v, 20v.



did.”<sup>[59]</sup> The case was ultimately dismissed on 12 June 1587, because James Chilton had been indulted.<sup>[60]</sup>

The family began attending St. Martin, Canterbury—only a half a mile from St. Paul and immediately northeast of the Barton—sometime between 8 June 1589 (when daughter Jane was baptized at St. Paul) and 2 November 1593 (when his 9-year-old son Joel was buried at St. Martin). Another child, daughter Mary, was buried there 23 November 1593, just a couple weeks after Joel. In the middle of the family tragedies of November 1593, James Chilton found himself in some legal hot water again with the Quarter Sessions court, in which he personally appeared before Canterbury mayor William Amye on November 7 and was ordered to post £60 bond (with William Thompson and Stephen Morris covering £10 each and James covering the remaining £40) for their appearance at the next session. The reason given was that “they owe to the said queen 100 marks of lawful money of England...to be levied from their lands, tenements, goods and chattels.”<sup>[61]</sup> No further details on the case have been found.

James had two children, Elizabeth and James, baptized at St. Martin in 1594 and 1596, before returning to St. Paul for the 29 April 1599 baptism of daughter Ingle. James Chilton, tailor, acted as a bondsman for the marriage licenses of Augustin Greenland to Margaret Blackbourne on 3 September 1596 and Robert Fittell, wheelwright, of Canterbury, to widow Rebecca Fishe of Patribourne, on 16 October 1598.<sup>[62]</sup> On 25 July 1598, James Chilton, tailor, acted as a surety on a bond for Richard Allen of St. Paul, Canterbury; Richard Allen, a painter by trade, wanted to open an alehouse, for which he needed two sureties.<sup>[63]</sup>

The James Chilton family, along with his stepmother Isabel (Wilson) (Furner) (Chilton) Graunt, and some of her Furner children, relocated to St. Peter, Sandwich, Kent—about 15 miles up the highway to the east—sometime between December 1600 (when he was fined at Canterbury for victualling without a license)<sup>[64]</sup> and 26 July 1601 (when daughter Christian was baptized at St. Peter). Two more children were baptized at St. Peter, Sandwich: James in 1603, and future *Mayflower* passenger Mary Chilton on 31 May 1607.<sup>[65]</sup>

On 23 February 1605[/6?], “Jacobus” Chilton, tailor, of Sandwich, provided bond to the marriage license of Oliver Knowles of St. Mary, Sandwich, and Elizabeth Medcalfe of St. Peter’s, Sandwich.<sup>[66]</sup> “Jacobus” Chilton, tailor of

<sup>59</sup> Kent Archives, Archdeaconry Court, PRC/39/11: deposition of Thomas Lymyer at folio 177v; deposition of William Wallsall at folio 191v; deposition of John Symon at folio 192r.

<sup>60</sup> Canterbury Cathedral Archives, DCb/J/X/2/8, folios 66v, 68r.

<sup>61</sup> Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Quarter Sessions, CCA J/Q/392.

<sup>62</sup> Joseph Meadows Cowper, ed., *Canterbury Marriage Licences: First Series, 1568–1618* (Canterbury: Cross & Jackman, 1892) [hereafter *Canterbury Marriage Licenses*], 152, 185. Rebecca (Beere) Fishe was the niece of Dorothy (London) Chilton’s sister Joan (London) Beere.

<sup>63</sup> Caleb Johnson, “A New Record Relating to James Chilton” *Mayflower Quarterly* 75 (2009):139–140, citing Kent Archives, Kent Quarter Sessions, QM/RLv/45.

<sup>64</sup> Paulick, *New England Ancestors*, 8(2):40 and *Mayflower Descendant*, 68:140–141, citing Canterbury Cathedral Archives, Kent History and Library, U543/D/26.

<sup>65</sup> Caleb Johnson, “The Correct Baptism Dates for Mary Chilton and Edward Winslow” *Mayflower Quarterly* 75 (2009):137–138.

<sup>66</sup> *Canterbury Marriage Licenses*, 254.

Sandwich, is mentioned in the probate estate administration of his step-mother Isabel (Wilson) (Furner) (Chilton) Graunte, dated 5 January 1606/7.<sup>[67]</sup>

On 8 May 1609, the parson of St. Peter, Sandwich, presented “[*blank*] wife of James Chilton” for “privately burying a childe of Andrewe Sharpe of St. Maries p[ar]ish” on 24 or 25 April 1609. She, along with Thomas Bartlett, Daniel Hooke, and future *Mayflower* passenger Moses Fletcher, called “into question the lawfulness of the kinges constitutions in this and other behalves, affirming these things to be popishly cerimonies and of no other force.” They were excommunicated on 12 June 1609, which was announced at church on 1 July 1609 by rector Harcin White.<sup>[68]</sup>

Following Mrs. Chilton’s excommunication, no further records have been found of the Chiltons in Sandwich. The family moved to Leiden, Holland, where daughter Isabel Chilton was married to Roger Chandler on 22 May 1615. On 19 May 1617, Isabel witnessed the marriage of Henry Collet to Alice (Thompson) Hooke; Alice was the mother of *Mayflower* passenger John Hooke,<sup>[69]</sup> who was placed as a servant in the family of Isaac Allerton.<sup>[70]</sup>

On Sunday, 28 April 1619, near James Chilton’s home on the Langebrug, past the Diefsteeg, about twenty boys began rioting and shouting anti-Arminian slogans. One of them threw a large stone at 63-year old James Chilton’s head, hitting him just above the eye and knocking him down. His children, including 22-year old Ingle, were called, and they feared he was dead, but some other men came and helped him. The town’s surgeon, Jacob Hey, tended the wound, and Chilton eventually recovered. He and his daughter Ingle signed a deposition at the request of the Leiden Remonstrant Brethren on 30 April 1619.<sup>[71]</sup>

James Chilton, his wife (of unknown name), and his daughter Mary all came on the *Mayflower*. James died onboard the ship on 8 December 1620, while the Pilgrims were still out exploring Cape Cod, looking for a place to build their plantation.<sup>[72]</sup> A couple of weeks later, James Chilton’s 13-year old daughter Mary would, by tradition at least, be the first female Pilgrim to step ashore upon Plymouth Rock.<sup>[73]</sup> His wife died sometime later during the first winter, leaving Mary an orphan. In the 1623 division of land at Plymouth, Mary’s acreage was situated between that of John Alden and Myles Standish, “on the north side of the town next adjoining to their gardens which came in the *Fortune*.”<sup>[74]</sup> About 1626, she married John Winslow, the brother of

<sup>67</sup> Kent Archives and Record Centre, Probate Administrations, PRC 3/27/66 (estate inventory at PRC 10/31/163).

<sup>68</sup> Michael Paulick, *Register* 153 (1999):407.

<sup>69</sup> Caleb Johnson, “A Note on the English Origins of *Mayflower* Passengers John Crackstone and John Hooke” *TAG* 80 (2005):100; Jeremy D. Bangs, “The Pilgrims and Other English in Leiden Records,” *Register* 143 (1989):207–208.

<sup>70</sup> Caleb Johnson, Sue Allan, and Simon Neal, “The Baptismal Record of *Mayflower* Passenger John Hooke” *Register* 173 (2019):204–205.

<sup>71</sup> Leiden Archives, Notarial deeds of Adriaen Claesz Paedts, Leiden, 1618–1619 (FSL DGS 5517895, image 136).

<sup>72</sup> Thomas Prince, *Chronological History of New England* (Boston, 1736), 76.

<sup>73</sup> Charles T. Libby, *Mary Chilton’s Title to Celebrity* (Boston, 1926).

<sup>74</sup> David Pulsifer, ed., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England...*, vol. 12 (Deeds, &c., vol. 1, 1620–1651) (Boston: William White, 1861) [hereafter *Plymouth Colony Records*], 4.

*Mayflower* passengers Edward and Gilbert Winslow, who had himself come on the ship *Fortune* in November 1621.<sup>[75]</sup> John and Mary (Chilton) Winslow received a share of the “lesser of the black cows came in the *Anne* which they must keep the biggest of the 2 steers. And ... two she goats” in the division of cattle in 1627.<sup>[76]</sup>

Children of James<sup>1</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) Chilton:<sup>[77]</sup>

- i. JOEL CHILTON, bp. at St. Paul, Canterbury 16 Aug. 1584; bur. at St. Martin, Canterbury 2 Nov. 1593.
- ii. ISABEL<sup>2</sup> CHILTON, bp. at St. Paul 15 Jan. 1586/7. As “Ysabel Tgiltron van Cantelberch in Engeland,” she m. ROGER CHANDLER<sup>[78]</sup> of Colchester, at Leiden, Netherlands, on 21 July 1615, with banns posted May 23, May 30, and June 6.<sup>[79]</sup> As “Isabel Candelens” (i.e. Chandler), she was a witness for the bride in the marriage of Henry Collet to Alice (Thompson) Hooke, the widow of John Hooke and mother of *Mayflower* passenger John Hooke.<sup>[80]</sup> Roger and Isabel Chandler settled in Duxbury by 1632, and had four children.
- iii. JANE CHILTON, bp. at St. Paul 8 June 1589. No further record found.
- iv. MARY CHILTON, bur. at St. Martin, Canterbury 23 Nov. 1593.
- v. ELIZABETH CHILTON, bp. at St. Martin 14 July 1594. No further record.
- vi. JAMES CHILTON, bp. at St. Martin 22 Aug. 1596; app. d. before 11 Sept. 1603.
- vii. INGLE CHILTON, bp. at St. Paul 29 April 1599. She m. three times at Leiden: (1) (as “Engeltgen Gilten”) ROBERT NELSON, bachelor and flannel weaver from England, on 27 May 1622, with banns posted May 13, 20, and 27; (2) DANIEL PIETERSE banns on 26 March 1636; and (3) MATTHIJS TILLIGEM on 18 July 1637.<sup>[81]</sup>
- viii. CHRISTIAN CHILTON, bp. at St. Peter, Sandwich 26 July 1601. She m. at least twice in Leiden, Holland: (1) JORIS ABRAHAMSZ, banns on 3 June 1635; and (2) DIONYSIUS VAN STEENSTRATEN, banns on 17 Jan. 1636. Given she was in her mid-30s, these may have been second and third marriages.

<sup>75</sup> For sketches on Edward, Gilbert, and John Winslow, see Robert Charles Anderson, *Great Migration Begins* (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), 3:2023–2030. Updated sketches of Edward and Gilbert also appear in Robert Charles Anderson, *The Mayflower Migration* (Boston: NEHGS, 2020) [hereafter *Mayflower Migration*], 188–194.

<sup>76</sup> *Plymouth Colony Records*, 11.

<sup>77</sup> There is a Richard Chilton, without father stated, baptized at St. Paul on 27 Jan. 1582/3. Chronologically, this Richard could belong to either John Chilton or his brother James Chilton.

For sources not cited here, see the sketch for James Chilton in *Mayflower Migration*, 58–61. James<sup>1</sup> Chilton and his descendants through five generations are covered in volume 15 of the General Society of Mayflower Descendant’s “Silver Books” series, which see for further details on the descendants of this family.

<sup>78</sup> We recently discovered the origins and parentage of Roger Chandler, who was bp. 22 May 1586, at Little Bromley, Essex, the son of Roger and Priscilla Candler (Register of Little Bromley, Essex, 1538–1624; Essex Record Office, D/P 5/1/1); this will be presented in a separate article examining the Candler family there and its apparent associations with the Allerton and Crackston families.

<sup>79</sup> Leiden Archives, 1004 page 41.

<sup>80</sup> Leiden Archives, 1004 page 64v.

<sup>81</sup> Leiden Archives, 1004 page 135v; *Mayflower Migration*, 59.

- ix. JAMES CHILTON (again), bp. at St. Peter, Sandwich 11 Sept. 1603. No further record.
- x. MARY CHILTON (again), bp. at St. Peter, Sandwich 31 May 1607. She came on the *Mayflower* with her parents. She married JOHN WINSLOW at Plymouth Colony about 1626.

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